

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
High throughput screening for glucocorticoid receptor (NR3C1; GCCR) modulators	<p>A high throughput fluorescent screening method to monitor the effects of GCCR activation on downstream promoters could help identify compounds that modulate GCCR for therapeutic applications in asthma and rheumatoid arthritis (RA). A screen of 1,040 natural products and FDA-approved drugs identified compounds that either nonspecifically or specifically inhibited or activated any of the three GCCR-activated promoters—ENaC (SCNN1A), FKBP5 and GILZ (TSC22D3)—used for this screen. Expression patterns corresponding to compounds of interest were validated in cell-based assays. Next steps could include testing some of the GCCR modulators in animal models and also adapting the method to other receptor-downstream promoter systems.</p> <p>At least six companies have compounds targeting GCCRs in clinical and preclinical testing to treat various conditions.</p> <p>SciBX 2(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.381 Published online March 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Gerber, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 23, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812308106</p> <p>Contact: Marc I. Diamond, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: marc.diamond@ucsf.edu</p>